

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): Apparatus for electrosurgically cutting about a tissue volume, comprising:

- a support member having an internal channel and extending to a forward region;
- a tissue capture component positioned within said interior channel, having a leaf assembly comprising a plurality of elongate thin leafs extending forwardly from a base portion to a leaf tip region, a said leaf having a resilient drive component extending along a leaf axis from said base portion to a tip region, and an electrically insulative flexible leaf cable guide component having one or more guide channels deposited parallel with said leaf axis and extending to a guide outlet, and an integrally formed coupling portion mounted with said drive component, a said guide channel extending from said tip region along said drive component to a guide commencement location, said leaf assembly being moveable to deploy outwardly from said support member forward region, said capture component having a pursing cable assembly extending through a said cable guide component guide channel and said guide outlet, electrosurgically energizable and deployable with each said leaf tip region to define an electrosurgical cutting arc of initially expanding extent and subsequent pursively contracting extent;

- a drive assembly engageable with said leaf assembly base portion and said pursing cable assembly and actuable to move said leaf assembly to deploy outwardly from said support member while effecting said deployment of said pursing cable assembly; and

- a control assembly drivably engageable with said drive assembly to effect said actuation thereof and having a terminal electrically coupled with said cable assembly to effect the electrosurgical energization thereof.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 in which:

- said leaf drive component is formed of a resilient metal having a first width at said base portion extending at least to said guide commencement location; and

- said leaf cable guide component is formed of polymeric material.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2 in which:

- said leaf cable guide component coupling portion is configured as a sheath surmounting said drive component.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus of claim 3 in which:

said leaf drive component first width is defined between oppositely disposed edges extending from said base portion to said guide commencement location, and is configured having a second full width less than said first width extending from said guide commencement location to said tip region and defining with said first width oppositely disposed shoulders at said guide commencement location; and

said leaf cable guide coupling portion is configured having oppositely disposed rearward end surfaces at said guide commencement location extending in abutable support before said oppositely disposed shoulders.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus of claim 3 in which:

said leaf drive component is configured having at least one serrated edge with rearwardly directed points engageable with said sheath configured to engage said leaf cable guide component coupling portion when said leafs are moved rearwardly from a deployed orientation toward said support member.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 in which:

said leaf drive component first width is about 0.080 inch; and
said leaf drive component second full width is about 0.060 inch.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus of claim 6 in which:

each said leaf cable guide coupling portion oppositely disposed rearward end surface has a widthwise extent of about 0.010 inch.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2 in which:

said leaf cable guide component has one said guide channel configured to surround one or more cables of said pursing cable assembly between said guide outlet and said guide commencement location.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 8 in which:

said guide channel exhibits an internal diametric extent of about 0.015 inch.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2 in which:

said leaf cable guide component polymeric material is polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 in which:

said leaf cable guide component is formed of ~~polymeric~~ polymeric material; and
each said guide channel is reinforced in the vicinity of said guide outlet to an extent effective to avoid damage occasioned during the deployment of said cable assembly.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of claim 11 in which:

said leaf resilient drive component is formed of metal and is configured to define a protective aperture extending across said guide outlet at said tip region.

Claim 13 (Original): A system for retrieving a tissue volume, comprising:

a support assembly with an interior channel extending along an instrument axis to a forward region;

a capture component positioned within said interior channel, having a leaf assembly comprising a plurality of thin leafs arranged in mutual adjacency for cage definition, extending from a base portion to a leaf tip region, a said leaf having a resilient drive component extending along a leaf axis from said base portion to a tip region, and an electrically insulative flexible leaf cable guide component having one or more guide channels disposed parallel with said leaf axis and extending to a guide outlet at said leaf tip region and an integrally formed coupling portion mounted with said drive portion, a said guide channel extending from said tip region guide outlet along said drive component to a guide commencement location, said capture component having a pursing cable assembly comprising electrosurgically energizable cables, each said cable extending from a cable terminator through a said guide channel and its associated guide outlet at one said leaf and thence into a said guide outlet and associated guide channel at a next adjacent said leaf and extending therethrough to a connection with the drive component thereof, said capture component base portion being drivable to extend said leafs from an initial position generally within said interior channel outwardly and forwardly toward an expanded orientation, said cables being loadable in tension to effect a pursing of said leaf tip regions from said expanded orientation toward said instrument axis to exhibit a capture orientation;

a support assembly configured to support said cable terminator for slideable forward movement under drive from said cables;

a drive assembly having a drive member drivably engaged with said capture component base portion and actuable to apply said drive thereto;

a cable stop located to effect blockage of said slideable forward movement of said cable terminator at a location effecting the loading of said cables in tension; and

a control assembly controllable to effect said electrosurgical energization of said cables and actuation of said drive assembly.

Claim 14 (Original): The system of claim 13 in which:

said cable connection with said drive member is located rearwardly of said guide commencement location.

Claim 15 (Original): The system of claim 14 in which:

said cable connection comprises a key slot formed through said drive component; and

an enlargement at the terminus of an associated said cable extending through and engaged by said key slot.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 13 in which:

said leaf cable guide component is formed of polymeric material; and

each said guide channel is reinforced in the vicinity of said guide outlet to an extent effective to avoid damage occasioned during the deployment of said cable assembly.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16 in which:

said leaf resilient drive component is formed of metal and is configured to define a protective aperture extending across said guide outlet at said tip region.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 in which:

said leaf drive component is formed of a resilient metal having a first width at said base portion extending at least to said guide commencement location; and

said leaf cable guide component is formed of polymeric material.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 18 in which:

said leaf cable guide component coupling portion is configured as a sheath surmounting said drive component.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 19 in which:

said leaf drive component first width is defined between oppositely disposed edges extending from said base portion to said guide commencement location, and is

configured having a second full width less than said first width extending from said guide commencement location to said tip region and defining with said first width oppositely disposed shoulders at said guide commencement location; and

said leaf cable guide coupling portion is configured having oppositely disposed rearward end surfaces at said guide commencement location extending in abutable support before said oppositely disposed shoulders.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus of claim 18 in which:

said leaf cable guide component polymeric material is polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 22 (Original): A system for retrieving a tissue volume, comprising:

a support assembly with an interior channel extending along an instrument axis to a forward region;

a capture component positioned within said interior channel, having a leaf assembly comprising a plurality of thin leaves extending forwardly from a base portion to a leaf tip region, a said leaf having a resilient drive component extending along a leaf axis from said base portion to a tip region, and an electrically insulative flexible leaf cable guide component having one or more guide channels disposed parallel with said leaf axis and extending to a guide outlet, and an integrally formed coupling portion mounted with said drive component, a said guide channel extending from said tip region along said drive component to a guide commencement location, said leaf assembly being drivable to deploy outwardly from said support member forward region, said capture component having a pursing cable assembly comprising electrosurgically energizable cables, each said cable extending from a cable terminator through a said cable guide component guide channel and guide outlet and being deployable with each leaf tip region to define an electrosurgical cutting arc of initially expanding movement and subsequent contracting movement as said leaf tip regions mutually converge toward a capture complete basket defining orientation;

a drive assembly having a drive component drivably engaged with said capture component base portion and extending to connection with a drive member, and a motor drive assembly energizable to impart forward drive movement to said drive member to effect application of drive to said capture component and exhibiting a stall condition when said forward drive movement of said drive member is terminated;

a support assembly configured to support said cable terminator and said drive member for slideable forward movement;

a cable stop located to effect blockage of said slideable forward movement of said cable terminator to effect said arc contracting movement;

a drive member stop located to effect blockage of said slideable forward movement of said drive member in correspondence with said capture complete basket defining orientation to effect said stall condition; and

a control assembly controllable to effect said energization of said motor drive assembly and said cables, and to de-energize said cables and said motor drive assembly in response to said stall condition.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 22 further comprising:

a safety stop located forwardly of said drive member stop to effect blockage of said slideable forward movement of said drive member in the event of a failure on the part of said drive member stop to do so.

Claim 24 (Original): The system of claim 23 in which:

said safety stop is located in substantially close proximity to said drive member stop.

Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus of claim 22 in which:

said leaf drive component is formed of a resilient metal having a first width at said base portion extending at least to said guide commencement location; and

said leaf cable guide component is formed of polymeric material.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus of claim 25 in which:

said leaf cable guide component coupling portion is configured as a sheath surmounting said drive component.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 in which:

said leaf drive component first width is defined between oppositely disposed edges extending from said base portion to said guide commencement location, and is configured having a second full width less than said first width extending from said guide commencement location to said tip region and defining with said first width oppositely disposed shoulders at said guide commencement location; and

said leaf cable guide coupling portion is configured having oppositely disposed rearward end surfaces at said guide commencement location extending in abutable support before said oppositely disposed shoulders.

Claim 28 (Original): The apparatus of claim 27 in which:

said leaf drive component is configured having at least one serrated edge with rearwardly directed points engageable with said sheath configured leaf cable guide component coupling portion when said leafs are moved rearwardly from a deployed orientation toward said support member.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus of claim 27 in which:

said leaf drive component is configured having an effective width less than said second full width extending from said guide commencement location to said tip region.